

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Moms Clean Air Force Michigan.

In Michigan we now face the unique challenge of reassessing our energy policy and as the Governor, the administration and the legislature have acknowledged there are many pieces that go into creating a model that works for Michigan.

One of the key facts that have to be considered is the impact these decisions will have on the health of Michigan's communities and especially our most vulnerable population: children and the elderly. As of now there are over 230,000 children and 700,000 adults suffer from asthma in Michigan-costing us \$394 million in medical costs per year, according to the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report 2012. Michigan currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in premature deaths, hospital admissions, and heart attacks attributed to coal fired power plant pollution. By looking closer at those numbers we see that 180 premature deaths, 233 hospital visits, 68,000 asthma exacerbations and 72,000 missed school/work days happen each year in Michigan due to coal plant pollution.<sup>1</sup>

Looking at cleaner energy solutions goes hand in hand with increasing our energy efficiency. Once our energy use is more efficient we as a state will consume less energy and therefore cause less air pollution through the creation of said energy. In early December of 2012 the Michigan public Service Commission published its third annual report on Michigan's energy optimization standards. Its findings conclude that the energy efficiency targets have been met and exceeded each year since its instatement. Furthermore the targets achieved in 2011 not only exceeded the calculations for that year but also for the following year 2012. Energy efficiency programs administered by Michigan's electric utilities saved customers 1.2 billion in the first three years combined.

Saving energy not only creates a cleaner and healthier environment but also saves Michiganders money that would otherwise be spent on excess energy consumed. In addition to saving money for the residents of this great state the energy optimization standards also create an environment of innovative, in-state labor opportunities that revitalize Michigan's manufacturing sector.

Furthermore every MWh saved also lowers the amount of greenhouse gases and therefore reduces the most severe impacts of climate change that we have seen as of late with devastating storms and draughts and the effects this has in turn on our communities and Michigan's agriculture.

Right now, Michigan has the highest electricity costs in the Mid-West, a fact that not only makes us less competitive but that also puts an additional burden on Michiganders.

Saving Michiganders money on energy and health care costs is not only necessary when looking at the impending effects of climate change but also smart policy. As described above Michigan has so far been able to out-perform its set targets and the whole industry has been on an upward trajectory. It is vital that we continue on this path as a state and make our communities not only healthier but also save us money in the long run.

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<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation: [http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/The\\_Toll\\_from\\_Coal.pdf](http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/The_Toll_from_Coal.pdf) Clean Air TaskForce;  
Asthma numbers: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/AsthmaInitiativeofMichigan\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_6-06\\_269864\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/AsthmaInitiativeofMichigan_Strategic_Plan_6-06_269864_7.pdf) Asthma Initiative Michigan, Environmental Health and Engineering Inc., EPA

For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us personally.